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## CURRENT SUPPORT MEMORANDUM

THE ORGANIZATION OF MILITARY CONSTRUCTION IN THE USSR

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**THE ORGANIZATION OF MILITARY CONSTRUCTION IN THE USSR**

appears to simplify the administrative structure of the Ministry and to consolidate various types of technical knowledge.

Until the end of 1957 five directorates were responsible to the Deputy Minister of Defense for Construction. They were the Quarters (Housing and Billeting) Directorate, the Chief Directorate of Military Construction, the Central Directorate of Capital Airfield Construction, the Chief Directorate of Naval Construction and the Chief Directorate of Special Construction.

The Quarters Directorate (KEU), which remains unchanged, is responsible for providing necessary accommodations for the Soviet armed forces, and appears to be responsible for designing and planning construction of these accommodations. A Quarters Directorate or Quarters Department (KEO) is located at each military district in the Soviet Union.

The Chief Directorate of Military Construction (GLAVVOENSTROY), which recently absorbed the Chief Directorate of Naval Construction (GLAVVOENMORSTROY) is composed of military construction directorates (VSU), military construction departments (VSO) and numbered military construction works sectors (OVSR). The chief directorate appears to be responsible for routine military construction such as construction of barracks and service and operational facilities at military installations. Administratively it is responsible for naval construction, but the naval construction activities continue to be directed by the appropriate Soviet Fleet Headquarters and their subordinate offices which carry out the construction of coastal defense works. 1/

The Central Directorate of Capital Airfield Construction (TsUKAS) until its recent apparent merger with the Chief Directorate of Special Construction (GUSS), was responsible for the construction and maintenance of all types of airfields for the Ministry of Defense. 2/ Subordinate to TsUKAS were departments of Capital Airfield Construction (OKAS) in each military district which had jurisdiction over the field units in each district.

Prior to its merger with TsUKAS, the GUSS was responsible for the construction of specific projects essential to all elements of the Ministry of Defense. GUSS has constructed air raid shelters and installations for the Soviet armed forces and has been responsible for basic construction at three major testing areas in the USSR for the development of nuclear weapons and guided missiles: the nuclear weapons proving grounds at Semipalatinsk in central Asia; the Kapustin Yar Missile Test Range also in central Asia; and, more recently, the Tyura Tam Missile test range which extends from central Asia to the Kamchatka Peninsula. 3/

The Chief Directorate for Airfield and Special Construction (GUASS) was formed through the merger of TsUKAS and GUSS. The airfield construction program which was inaugurated in 1948 and for which TsUKAS was mainly responsible, is believed to be almost completed which eliminates a continuing need for an airfield construction group of this type. The merger of these two organizations

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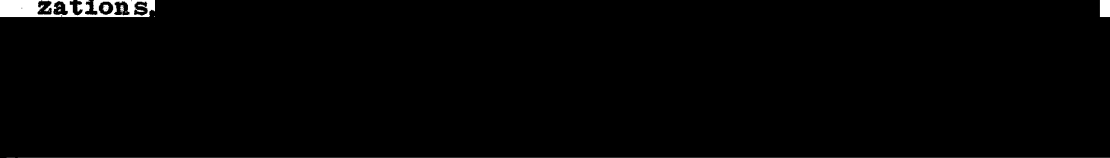
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which have worked closely together in the past has served to consolidate the technical knowhow of the personnel in both organizations.



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In addition to the military construction components under the Ministry of Defense, the Directorate of Special Construction (SPETs STROY) of the Chief Directorate of the Northern Sea Route (GUSMP) has participated in an airfield construction program along the northern littoral of the USSR supposedly for Polar Aviation, GUSMP's air arm. However, SPETsSTROY is believed to be composed of airfield construction battalions which were created for the express purpose of building certain civil airfields to military specifications for use by the Soviet Air Force in times of emergency. 5/ Over the past five years military involvements in these Arctic airfields has been increasing and three of the locations, Tiksi, Amerma, and Mys Shmidt appear to be major bases for military operations. 6/

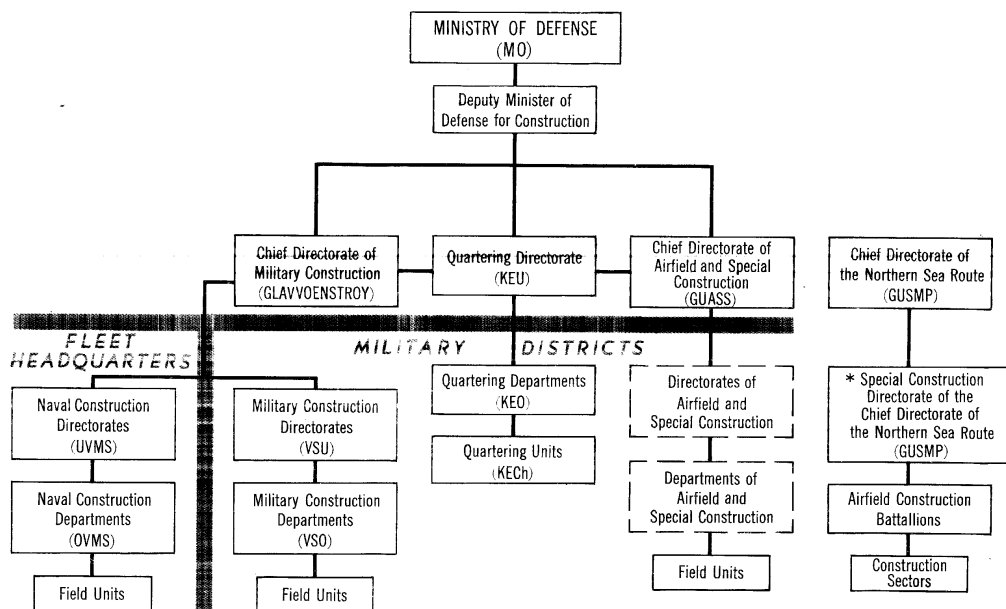
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\* Note: SPETsSTROY'S subordination to the Chief Directorate of the Northern Sea Route (GUSMP), Ministry of the Merchant Fleet, rather than to a construction component of the Ministry of Defense appears logical because of the experience and capability of GUSMP in dealing with the unique problems involved in Soviet arctic development.

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